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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/519,854

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Hans-Jurgen Claus

442-230 PCT/US

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11/07/2005

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EXAMINER

HYEON, HAE M

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2839

DATE MAILED: 11/07/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/519,854

Applicant(s)

CLAUS ET AL.

Examiner

Hae M. Hyeon

Art Unit

2839

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 December 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-17 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 29 December 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/29/04.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to as failing to comply with 37 CFR 1.84(p)(4) because reference character “27” has been used to designate both **insertion opening and male part** (see paragraph [0035], lines 6-8). Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either “Replacement Sheet” or “New Sheet” pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Specification

2. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities:
- In paragraph [0031], line 3, “the female socket 16” should be -- the female socket 14 --.
 - In paragraph [0048], line 6, “fluid line 5” should be -- fluid line 2 --.
 - In paragraph [0049], line 10, “wall is concerned 4” should be -- wall 4 is concerned --.
 - In paragraph [0051], line 3, “the fluid duct 2” should be -- the fluid duct 5 --.

Appropriate correction is required.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

3. The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter, which the applicant regards as his invention.

4. Claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Claim 7, line 3 recites, “two guide wings **on opposite sides** projecting toward the insertion opening.” It is not clear which opposite sides that claim 7 is referring to. Also, line 5 recites, “for a rib-like wall section of the fluid line.” It is not clear what is being done with the rib-like wall section.

5. Claims 14 and 17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being incomplete for omitting essential structural cooperative relationships of elements, such omission amounting to a gap between the necessary structural connections. See MPEP § 2172.01. The omitted structural cooperative relationships are: spring means and guide means.

Claim 14 recites spring means, but claims 14 and 17 do not recite their structural relationship with other elements such as the female socket and the signal contacts to work together.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

6. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

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(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

7. Claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Frisch (US 6,848,924 B2).

Frisch discloses a connection member 10 comprising a female socket 15 having an insertion opening 19, a holding device 25, and at least one signal contact 22 arranged in the female socket 15 and extending toward the insertion opening 19. A fluid line 11 containing a fluid duct 21 and at least one stranded signal conductor 13 in a projecting rib-like section is inserted into the socket 15. Figure 3 of Frisch shows the signal contact 22 having a knife edge with a width at least equal to the diameter of the signal conductor 13. The signal contact 22 penetrates from the end of the signal conductor 13 to split the signal conductor 13 into an externally placed and an internally placed line limb.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

8. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 2-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Frisch in view of Gaidosch (US 6,676,436 B2) and White et al (5,522,733).

Claims 2-17 recite different shapes of the knife edge such as straight, circularly arcuate, right angle, or concavely curved and different structure of the signal contact such as two guide wings with a guide gap or guide channel.

While Frisch discloses the signal contact 22 that penetrates the signal conductor 13 of the fluid line 11, Frisch does not disclose the signal contact 22 having the shapes and the structures as recited in claims 2-17.

Gaidosch discloses a contact 9 for penetrating a conductor comprising two wings and a guide gap formed between the wings, widening toward an insertion direction. White discloses a contact 10 comprising two wings, which are bent to form a right angle to each other along the longitudinal axis of the contact 10. Both Gaidosch and White teach that a contact provide secure electrical connection between the contact and a conductor engaging the contact. Although Gaidosch and White do not disclose all the shape and the structure of the contact, changing the shape and the structure do not affect the function of the contact engaging the conductor regardless of the shape and the structure.

It would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to modify the contact taught by Frisch such that it would have the contact as taught by Gaidosch or White because the contact of Gaidosch and White provide secure electrical connection.

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure. US Patent No. 4,842,544 by Birch et al., US Patent No. 5,810,616 by Ivey, US Patent No. 6,641,426 B2 by Saitoh, US Patent No. 6,670,880 B1 by Hall et al., US Patent No. 6,783,379 B2 by Kerscher et al., and US Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0256127 A1 by Brenner et al.

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Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hae M. Hyeon whose telephone number is 571-272-2093. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. (8:30-5:30).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Tulsidas C. Patel can be reached on (571) 272-2098. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Hae M Hyeon
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2839

hnh

hnh

Hae Moon Hyeon